

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 L-02 IGA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AGR-05 SSO-00 COME-00 IO-10 FDRE-00 /068 W

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P 070814Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4863

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PASS NSC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID SREF VS

SUBJECT: PL-480 RICE FOR EMERGENCY REFUGEE NEEDS

REF: (A) SAIGON 3516; (B) SAIGON 3743; (C) STATE 72270;

(D) STATE 75747; (E) SAIGON 4338 (F) SAIGON 4252

1. 100,000 MT TITLE II RICE WAS REQUESTED BY REFS A AND B IN ORDER TO PROVIDE, FIRST, AN IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE REQUIREMENT THEN EMERGING AT DANANG AND, SECONDLY, A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVT OF SVN.

2. PROMPT APPROVAL CONVEYED BY REF C HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE LATTER OBJECTIVE AS EVIDENCED BY DPTY PRIMIN FOR ECON DEVELOPMENT NGUYEN VAN HAO'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON APR 3 OF USG'S "LESS THAN ONE WEEK RESPONSE" TO GVN'S EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR RICE FOR RELIEF PURPOSES. HAO DESCRIBED THE RESPONSE AS A "NOBLE ACT AND IMPORTANT GESTURE UNDER PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES."

3. THE FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS OVERTAKEN BY MILITARY EVENTS. NEVERTHELESS, RICE WILL STILL BE NEEDED FOR EXISTING REFUGEES, FOR OTHER THAT WILL FILTER IN AND FOR THOSE THAT MAY BE GENERATED BY THE FIGHTING IN MRS III AND IV. WE BELIEVE IT
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NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE ENTIRE 100,000 MT IN RESERVE TO COVER

FORESEEABLE CONTINGENCIES, WHICH COULD INCLUDE THE ISOLATION OF SAIGON.

4. UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT RECORDS AND REPORTS ARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE AS MOST PERSONNEL ARE COMPLETELY OCCUPIED WITH MERELY GETTING REFUGEES AND SUPPLIES MATCHED UP IN SAFE AREAS. THE GVN CABINET CHANGE HAS ADDED SOME DIFFICULTIES IN WORKING WITH MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIALS ON THESE MATTERS. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO REF D. KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SITUATION IS EVOLVING RAPIDLY AND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN CURRENT INFO.

5. SINCE 1973 THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MSW) HAS USED ONLY LOCAL RICE FOR REFUGEE DISTRIBUTIONS, ALTHOUGH TITLE I RICE HAD BEEN USED EXTENSIVELY BEFORE THAT TIME. WE HAVE JUST TRANSFERRED 341 MT TITLE I STOCKS TO TITLE II FOR REFUGEES ON PHU QUOC. IN ADDITION, SINCE MARCH 28 THE MSW HAS DRAWN BETWEEN 6,000 AND 9,500 MT OF LOCAL RICE FOR REFUGEE FEEDING FROM THE NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY (NFA).

6. DISTRIBUTION IS NOW PERFORMED BY MSW ON AN AS REQUIRED BASIS. THE NORMAL DAILY RATION IS 500 GRAMS PER PERSON.

7. DAILY REFUGEE SITREPS (REF E IS LATEST AT TIME OF THIS CABLE) PROVIDE MOST CURRENT INFO ON REFUGEE NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS.

8. REF F ADDRESSES COORDINATION BETWEEN MSW, USAID AND VOLAGS IN GENERAL. VOLAGS ROLE IN REFUGEE RELIEF FEEDING EFFORT IS NOW BEING WORKED OUT.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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